

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A ~~The communication system as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a local terminal apparatus connected with a local network provided in a predetermined facility;

a remote terminal apparatus connected with an external network; and

a control apparatus interposed between the local network and the external network,

wherein the local terminal apparatus comprises:

processing executing means for executing a predetermined processing; and

reply means for returning an answer signal including a status information of said

processing executing means via the local network in response to a request signal received via
the local network;

wherein said remote terminal apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting a predetermined operation;

transceiver means for transmitting the request signal including control information
corresponding to an operation inputted by said input means via the external network, and
receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal via the local network; and

information output means for outputting the status information included in the answer
signal received by said transceiver means, and

wherein said control apparatus comprises:

gateway means for receiving the request signal transmitted from said remote terminal
apparatus via the external network, and thereafter, transmitting the received request signal to

the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and for receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal from the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and thereafter, transmitting the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus via the external network, wherein

said communication system further comprises:

a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein said control apparatus comprises storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal should be transmitted to, for each of said local terminal apparatus, and

wherein said gateway means transmits the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus determined by referring to the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, via the external network.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

a local terminal apparatus connected with a local network provided in a predetermined facility;

a remote terminal apparatus connected with an external network; and

a control apparatus interposed between the local network and the external network,

wherein the local terminal apparatus comprises:

processing executing means for executing a predetermined processing; and

reply means for returning an answer signal including a status information of said processing executing means via the local network in response to a request signal received via the local network;

wherein said remote terminal apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting a predetermined operation;

transceiver means for transmitting the request signal including control information corresponding to an operation inputted by said input means via the external network, and receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal via the local network; and

information output means for outputting the status information included in the answer signal received by said transceiver means, and

wherein said control apparatus comprises:

gateway means for receiving the request signal transmitted from said remote terminal apparatus via the external network, and thereafter, transmitting the received request signal to the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and for receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal from the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and thereafter, transmitting the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus via the external network, wherein

said communication system further comprises:

a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein said control apparatus comprises storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal should be transmitted to, for each of said local terminal apparatus and for each status information of the received answer signal, and

wherein said gateway means transmits the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus determined by referring to the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, via the external network.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A ~~The communication system as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a local terminal apparatus connected with a local network provided in a predetermined facility;

a remote terminal apparatus connected with an external network; and

a control apparatus interposed between the local network and the external network,

wherein the local terminal apparatus comprises:

processing executing means for executing a predetermined processing; and

reply means for returning an answer signal including a status information of said processing executing means via the local network in response to a request signal received via the local network;

wherein said remote terminal apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting a predetermined operation;

transceiver means for transmitting the request signal including control information corresponding to an operation inputted by said input means via the external network, and receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal via the local network; and

information output means for outputting the status information included in the answer signal received by said transceiver means, and

wherein said control apparatus comprises:

gateway means for receiving the request signal transmitted from said remote terminal apparatus via the external network, and thereafter, transmitting the received request signal to

the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and for receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal from the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and thereafter, transmitting the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus via the external network, wherein

said communication system further comprises:

a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein each of said local terminal apparatuses comprises storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal should be transmitted to, and

wherein said reply means transmits the answer signal to be transmitted to the remote terminal apparatus determined by referring to the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, via the local network, said control apparatus and the external network.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

a local terminal apparatus connected with a local network provided in a predetermined facility;

a remote terminal apparatus connected with an external network; and

a control apparatus interposed between the local network and the external network,

wherein the local terminal apparatus comprises:

processing executing means for executing a predetermined processing; and

reply means for returning an answer signal including a status information of said processing executing means via the local network in response to a request signal received via the local network;

wherein said remote terminal apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting a predetermined operation;

transceiver means for transmitting the request signal including control information corresponding to an operation inputted by said input means via the external network, and receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal via the local network; and

information output means for outputting the status information included in the answer signal received by said transceiver means, and

wherein said control apparatus comprises:

gateway means for receiving the request signal transmitted from said remote terminal apparatus via the external network, and thereafter, transmitting the received request signal to the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and for receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal from the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and thereafter, transmitting the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus via the external network, wherein

said communication system further comprises:

a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein each of said local terminal apparatuses comprises storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal should be transmitted to, in accordance to the status information of the answer signal, and

wherein said reply means transmits the answer signal to be transmitted to the remote terminal apparatus determined by referring to the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, via the local network, said control apparatus and the external network.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A The communication system as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

a local terminal apparatus connected with a local network provided in a predetermined facility;

a remote terminal apparatus connected with an external network; and

a control apparatus interposed between the local network and the external network,

wherein the local terminal apparatus comprises:

processing executing means for executing a predetermined processing; and

reply means for returning an answer signal including a status information of said processing executing means via the local network in response to a request signal received via the local network;

wherein said remote terminal apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting a predetermined operation;

transceiver means for transmitting the request signal including control information corresponding to an operation inputted by said input means via the external network, and receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal via the local network; and

information output means for outputting the status information included in the answer signal received by said transceiver means, and

wherein said control apparatus comprises:

gateway means for receiving the request signal transmitted from said remote terminal apparatus via the external network, and thereafter, transmitting the received request signal to the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and for receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal from the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and thereafter, transmitting the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus via the external network, wherein

said communication system further comprises:

a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein each of said remote terminal apparatuses comprises storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal corresponding to the request signal should be transmitted to,

wherein said transceiver means transmits via the external network the request signal further including a transmission destination information of the answer signal corresponding to the request signal, the transmission destination information being indicated by the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, and

wherein said reply means transmits the answer signal to be transmitted to the remote terminal apparatus indicated by the transmission destination information included in the request signal, via the local network, said control apparatus and the external network.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A ~~The communication system as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a local terminal apparatus connected with a local network provided in a predetermined facility;

a remote terminal apparatus connected with an external network; and

a control apparatus interposed between the local network and the external network,

wherein the local terminal apparatus comprises:

processing executing means for executing a predetermined processing; and

reply means for returning an answer signal including a status information of said processing executing means via the local network in response to a request signal received via the local network;

wherein said remote terminal apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting a predetermined operation;

transceiver means for transmitting the request signal including control information corresponding to an operation inputted by said input means via the external network, and receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal via the local network; and

information output means for outputting the status information included in the answer signal received by said transceiver means, and

wherein said control apparatus comprises:

gateway means for receiving the request signal transmitted from said remote terminal apparatus via the external network, and thereafter, transmitting the received request signal to the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and for receiving an answer signal corresponding to the request signal from the local terminal apparatus via the local network, and thereafter, transmitting the received answer signal to the remote terminal apparatus via the external network, wherein

said communication system further comprises:

a plurality of said local terminal apparatuses and a plurality of said remote terminal apparatuses,

wherein each of said remote terminal apparatuses comprises storage means for storing a transmission destination table including a transmission destination indicative of which one of said plurality of remote terminal apparatuses the answer signal corresponding to the request signal should be transmitted to, in accordance to the status information of the answer signal,

wherein the transceiver means transmits via the external network the request signal further including a transmission destination information of the answer signal corresponding to the request signal, the transmission destination information being indicated by the transmission destination table stored in said storage means, and

wherein said reply means transmits the answer signal to be transmitted to the remote terminal apparatus, which is indicated by the transmission destination information included in the request signal and which corresponds to status information of the answer signal, via the local network, said control apparatus and the external network.

Claims 12-20 (Canceled).